



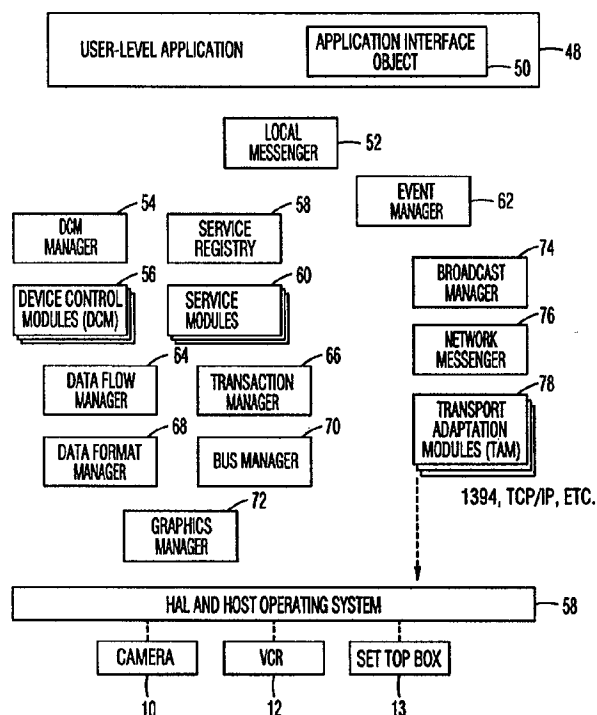
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(54) **Title:** MEDIA MANAGER FOR CONTROLLING AUTONOMOUS MEDIA DEVICES WITHIN A NETWORK ENVIRONMENT

(57) Abstract

A media manager provides data flow management and other services for client applications on devices coupled together within a network. Preferably, these devices are coupled together within an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network. A device control module is generated for each available device for providing an abstraction for all of the capabilities and requirements of the device including the appropriate control protocol, physical connections and connection capabilities for the device. The media manager also manages the flow and format of data transfers between the devices on the network. Through an interface, a user accesses the media manager and enters functions which are to be completed using the devices coupled together on the network. If the appropriate devices are available, the media manager controls and manages the completion of the requested task. If the appropriate devices are not available, but the required subdevices are available in multiple devices, the media manager forms a virtual device from subdevices in multiple devices in order to complete the requested task. Once the appropriate devices and subdevices are assigned to a task, the media manager determines if the data to be transmitted needs to be converted from one format into another format. If necessary, the media manager will also control the format conversion during the data transfer operation. The media manager also provides network enumeration and registry searching capabilities for client applications to find available services, physical devices and virtual devices.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 99/09490

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 H04L G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	MINERS R F, FRIESEN J A, YANG, C L: "Dave: A plug-and-play model for distributed multimedia application development" PROCEEDINGS ACM MULTIMEDIA 94, 15 - 20 October 1994, pages 22-28, XP002125719 abstract	17,23
A	figures 3,4 page 22, line 11-L page 23, line 24-45 page 24, column 2, line 8-16 --- -/--	1-16, 18-22, 24-30



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 457 446 A (YAMAMOTO YASUYUKI) 10 October 1995 (1995-10-10)	17, 23
A	abstract figures 2,3 column 2, line 35-64 claim 1 ----	1-16, 18-22, 24-30
A	CHEN W Y : "Emerging home digital networking needs " 1997 FOURTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COMMUNITY NETWORKING PROCEEDINGS , 11 - 12 September 1997, pages 7-12, XP002126574 Atlanta, USA the whole document ----	1-4,8, 12-14, 16-19, 22-26,30
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Internal Application No

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